

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A pneumatic tire comprising,

a mark portion of a wear indicator which changes as wear progresses, said mark portion being provided on a portion of a tread surface of said tire and disposed apart and in isolation from a main groove extending circumferentially about said tire,

wherein said mark portion includes a first cavity and a second cavity abutting ~~disposed in close proximity to~~ the first cavity, each one of the first and second cavities extending into a depth direction of the tread surface, and

wherein said first cavity has a first surface shape defining a first surface area that continuously changes as a depth of the tread surface decreases due to wear and said second cavity has a second surface shape defining a second surface area that remains constant as the depth of the tread surface decreases due to wear.

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented) The pneumatic tire according the claim 1, wherein wall surfaces of at least one of said first cavity and said second cavity are colored with a different color from that of surrounding rubber.

4. (previously presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a colored member of a different color from that of surrounding rubber is buried in said at least one said first cavity and said second cavity.

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented) The pneumatic tire according to any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein the first and second surface shapes are in a quadrilateral having a pair of long sides and a pair of short sides respectively, and

the pair of long sides of the second surface shape is made constant in the depth direction from the tread surface, and the pair of long sides of the first surface shape is made to change in the depth direction from the tread surface.

7. – 19. (canceled).